

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification has been amended to place it in better form. In particular, the phrase “0.01 mm or less” at line 15 of page 8 has been changed to “0.10 or less” so that the disclosure at page 8 corresponds to the disclosure at line 23 of page 6 and elsewhere in the specification. Other changes have been made to correct typographical errors. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims Status

Claims 1, 2, and 4 through 6 remain pending in the application. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve its form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claim 1 is the only independent claim pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 3 have been objected to for the reasons succinctly set forth in the Official Action. In response, Claim 3 has been canceled and Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 3 and to overcome the grounds of the objections. It is respectfully submitted that the objections to the claims have been overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claim 3 is merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The allowable subject matter of canceled Claim 3 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1.

Art Rejection

Claims 1, 2, and 4 through 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0086125 (Kakij, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,967,231 (Hosoya, et al.). In view of the incorporation of all of the limitations of Claim 3 into Claim 1, it is believed that Claim 1 as currently amended is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 is allowable over the cited art whether taken individually or in combination.

Dependent Claims

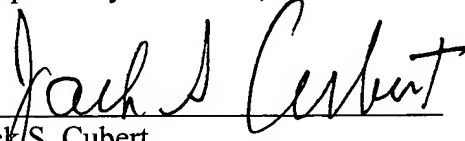
Claims 2 and 4 through 6 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' attorney, William M. Wannisky, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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